

planar surface, such as a table, but may alternatively be any other suitable type of surface. The fluid is preferably manipulated to deform the portions of the tactilely distinguishable formation in substantially different degrees to substantially affect the orientation of the device, for example, one portion will be deformed to a higher degree than another to raise the corresponding side of the face and change the orientation of the device. However, any other suitable arrangement of the second tactilely distinguishable formation of the third variation may be used.

[0031] In a fourth variation of the step of manipulating the second volume of fluid, the second volume of fluid is manipulated to configure the second type of tactilely distinguishable formation to provide an aesthetic feature to the device, as shown in FIG. 10. This variation of the method **S100** may include actuating the aesthetic feature at a desired time. In a first example, the aesthetic feature may be activated at a preprogrammed time, for example, every five minutes, whenever the device is turned on and/or off, when a function of the device is turned on and/or off, or any other suitable time. The preprogrammed time may be preset by a manufacturer, but may alternatively be set by the user. Alternatively, the aesthetic feature may be activated on a case by case basis, for example, when the user selects to activate the feature or when an event occurs. However, any other suitable activation of the aesthetic feature may be used.

[0032] As a person skilled in the art will recognize from the previous detailed description and from the figures and claims, modifications and changes can be made to the preferred embodiments of the invention without departing from the scope of this invention defined in the following claims.

We claim:

1. A user interface system for a device, comprising:
 - a first deformable layer that includes a first sheet that defines a first surface, a first fluid vessel arranged underneath the first surface, and a first volume of fluid contained within the first fluid vessel that is manipulated to deform a first particular region of the first surface to receive a user input;
 - a second deformable layer that includes a second sheet that defines a second surface, a second fluid vessel arranged underneath the second surface, and a second volume of fluid contained within the second fluid vessel that is manipulated to deform a second particular region of the second surface to change the shape of the device; and
 - a displacement device coupled to the first and second fluid vessels and configured to selectively manipulate at least one of the first and second volumes of fluid, thereby deforming at least one of the first and second particular regions.
2. The user interface system of claim 1, further comprising a processor coupled to the displacement device that is configured to actuate the displacement device.
3. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the first and second fluid vessels are fluidly coupled.
4. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the displacement device includes a first displacement device fluidly coupled to the first fluid vessel and a second displacement device fluidly coupled to the second fluid vessel.
5. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the displacement device is fluidly coupled to both the first and second fluid vessels.

6. The user interface system of claim 5, further comprising a valve that cooperates with the displacement device to selectively manipulate the first and second volumes of fluid.

7. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the displacement device is configured to manipulate the second volume of fluid to pulsate the surface of the deformed second particular region.

8. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the displacement device manipulates the second volume of fluid to deform the second particular region to provide information.

9. The user interface system of claim 8, wherein the information provided by the second deformable layer is a location indicator and wherein the second deformable layer is arranged proximate to a particular feature of the device and the deformed second particular region provides a location indicator of the particular feature of the device to the user.

10. The user interface system of claim 9, wherein the device is a mobile phone and the second portion is arranged proximate to an ear piece of the mobile phone and the deformed second particular region provides a location indicator of the earpiece.

11. The user interface system of claim 8, wherein the information provided by the second deformable layer is an alert and the deformed second particular region provides an alert to the user regarding the operation of the device.

12. The user interface system of claim 11, wherein the device receives messages and wherein the deformed second particular region provides an alert for a received message.

13. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the displacement device manipulates the second volume of fluid to deform the second particular region to provide an aesthetic change to the device.

14. The user interface system of claim 13, wherein the deformed second particular region provides a substantially three-dimensional logo to the device.

15. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the second deformable layer is arranged along a face of the device and wherein the displacement device manipulates the second volume of fluid to deform the second particular region to provide protection for the face of the device.

16. The user interface system of claim 15, wherein the surface at the deformed second particular region is substantially raised from the face of the device to provide a bumper for the face of the device.

17. The user interface system of claim 15, wherein second volume of fluid is manipulated to deform a plurality of second particular regions, wherein the surface at each of the deformed second particular regions is substantially raised from the face of the device to provide a plurality of risers for the device.

18. The user interface system of claim 17, wherein the second particular regions are arranged substantially proximate to an edge and an opposite edge of the face of the device.

19. The user interface system of claim 1, wherein the second deformable layer is arranged along a face of the device and wherein the deformed second particular region changes the angle of the device relative to an external surface.

20. A method of providing a user interface for a device, comprising the steps of:

providing a first deformable layer that defines a first surface and a first fluid vessel that contains a first volume of fluid;